

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1           1.       (Previously Presented) A recoil starter comprising:  
2                   a casing including a reel shaft disposed coaxially with a crankshaft of an engine,  
3       which crankshaft has a rotating member coupled thereto;  
4                   a rope reel rotatably supported on said reel shaft and provided at an outer  
5       periphery thereof with a drum portion around which a recoil rope is wound;  
6                   a recoil spring for rotationally urging said rope reel in a direction in which said  
7       recoil rope is rewound;  
8                   a cam, rotatably supported on said reel shaft, for transmitting a rotation thereof to  
9       said rotating member via a clutch mechanism; and  
10                  a damper spring, disposed between said rope reel and said cam, for transmitting a  
11       rotation of said rope reel to said cam using a resilient action, wherein  
12                  annular recesses are formed in mutually opposing joint surfaces of said rope reel  
13       and said cam, respectively, in a manner to face each other, said damper spring being received in  
14       said annular recesses while opposite ends of said damper spring are respectively held at said rope  
15       reel and said cam so that said rope reel and said cam are rotationally coupled together via said  
16       damper spring;  
17                  said casing includes a side wall having air inlets formed therein for introducing air  
18       for cooling the engine; and  
19                  said rope reel includes a boss portion which forms the annular recess of said rope  
20       reel, said rope reel having air passages which are formed between said drum portion and said  
21       boss portion thereof in such a manner as to face said air inlets formed in said casing, the boss  
22       portion of the rope reel and the cam have outer walls which form the respective annular recesses

23 and which are located radially inwardly of the air passages and the damper spring comprises a  
24 torsion coil spring.

1           2.       (Original) The recoil starter according to claim 1, wherein said clutch mechanism  
2 for transmitting the rotation of said cam to said rotating member comprises:

3                   a cam pawl formed projectingly on an outer peripheral surface of said cam;

4                   a drive pulley which constitutes said rotating member and which has a cup form  
5 with its one end open, said drive pulley being disposed in such a manner as to cover said cam;  
6 and

7                   a centrifugal ratchet having one end thereof pivotally supported at an annular  
8 flange which is formed on an open end portion of said drive pulley in a manner to project  
9 radially outward therefrom, said centrifugal ratchet being provided on the other end thereof with  
10 an engaging piece formed to be angled toward the inside of said drive pulley, said centrifugal  
11 ratchet being rotationally urged in a direction in which said engaging piece thereof engages with  
12 said cam pawl of said cam.

1           3.       (Previously Presented) The recoil starter according to Claim 1 wherein said rope  
2 reel air passages are located radially outward from the torsion coil spring to provide an open  
3 passageway free from any intrusion by the torsion coil spring.

1           4.       (Previously Presented) The recoil starter according to Claim 1 wherein the casing  
2 has an outer convex surface with an inclined annular flange extending from the side wall with  
3 ventilation air inlets formed on the annular flange.

1           5.       (Previously Presented) A recoil starter comprising:  
2                   a casing including a reel shaft disposed coaxially with a crankshaft of an engine,  
3       which crankshaft has a rotating member coupled thereto;  
4                   a rope reel rotatably supported on said reel shaft and provided at an outer  
5       periphery thereof with a drum portion around which a recoil rope is wound;  
6                   a recoil spring for rotationally urging said rope reel in a direction in which said  
7       recoil rope is rewound;  
8                   a cam, rotatably supported on said reel shaft, for transmitting a rotation thereof to  
9       said rotating member via a clutch mechanism; and  
10                  a damper spring, disposed between said rope reel and said cam, for transmitting a  
11       rotation of said rope reel to said cam using a resilient action, wherein  
12                  annular recesses are formed in mutually opposing joint surfaces of said rope reel  
13       and said cam, respectively, in a manner to face each other, said damper spring being received in  
14       said annular recesses while opposite ends of said damper spring are respectively held at said rope  
15       reel and said cam so that said rope reel and said cam are rotationally coupled together via said  
16       damper spring;  
17                  said casing includes a side wall having air inlets formed therein for introducing air  
18       for cooling the engine;  
19                  said rope reel includes a boss portion which forms the annular recess of said rope  
20       reel, said rope reel having air passages which are formed between said drum portion and said  
21       boss portion thereof in such a manner as to face said air inlets formed in said casing; and

22                   a clutch mechanism for transmitting the rotation of said cam to said rotating  
23 member including:  
24                   a cam pawl formed projectingly on an outer peripheral surface of said cam;  
25                   a drive pulley which constitutes said rotating member and which has a cup form  
26 with its one end open, said drive pulley being disposed in such a manner as to cover said cam;  
27 and  
28                   a centrifugal ratchet having one end thereof pivotally supported at an annular  
29 flange which is formed on an open end portion of said drive pulley in a manner to project  
30 radially outward therefrom, said centrifugal ratchet being provided on the other end thereof with  
31 an engaging piece formed to be angled toward the inside of said drive pulley, said centrifugal  
32 ratchet being rotationally urged in a direction in which said engaging piece thereof engages with  
33 said cam pawl of said cam.

1           6.       (Currently Amended) A recoil starter comprising:  
2                   a casing including a reel shaft disposed coaxially with a crankshaft of an engine,  
3       which crankshaft has a rotating member coupled thereto;  
4                   a rope reel rotatably supported on said reel shaft and provided at an outer  
5       periphery thereof with a drum portion around which a recoil rope is wound;  
6                   a recoil spring for rotationally urging said rope reel in a direction in which said  
7       recoil rope is rewound;  
8                   a cam, rotatably supported on said reel shaft, for transmitting a rotation thereof to  
9       said rotating member via a clutch mechanism;  
10                  a damper spring, disposed coaxially between said rope reel and said cam, for  
11       transmitting a rotation of said rope reel to said cam using a resilient action,  
12                  said casing includes a side wall having air inlets formed therein for introducing air  
13       for cooling the engine;  
14                  said rope reel includes a boss portion which forms ~~the~~ an annular recess of said  
15       rope reel, said rope reel having air passages which are formed between said drum portion and  
16       said boss portion thereof in such a manner as to face said air inlets formed in said casing;  
17                  the air passages are positioned radially outward from the damper spring without  
18       any blocking of the air passages and air inlets by the damper spring; and  
19                  a clutch mechanism for transmitting the rotation of said cam to said rotating  
20       member including:  
21                  a cam pawl formed projectingly on an outer peripheral surface of said cam;

22           a drive pulley which constitutes said rotating member and which has a cup form  
23   with its one end open, said drive pulley being disposed in such a manner as to cover said cam;  
24   and  
25           a centrifugal ratchet having one end thereof pivotally supported at an annular  
26   flange which is formed on an open end portion of said drive pulley in a manner to project  
27   radially outward therefrom, said centrifugal ratchet being provided on the other end thereof with  
28   an engaging piece formed to be angled toward the inside of said drive pulley, said centrifugal  
29   ratchet being rotationally urged in a direction in which said engaging piece thereof engages with  
30   said cam pawl of said cam.